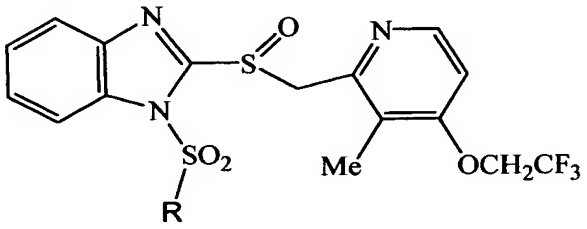
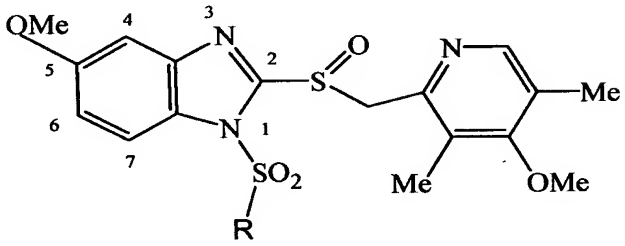
COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

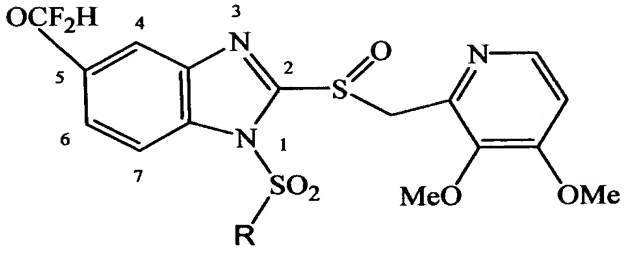
1. (amended) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



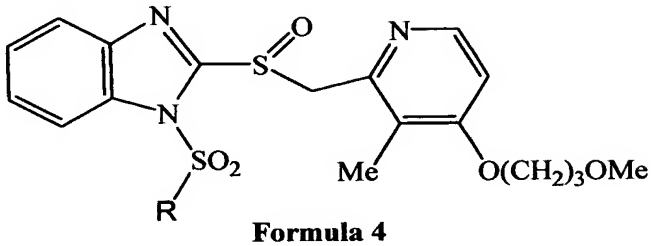
Formula 1



Formula 2



Formula 3

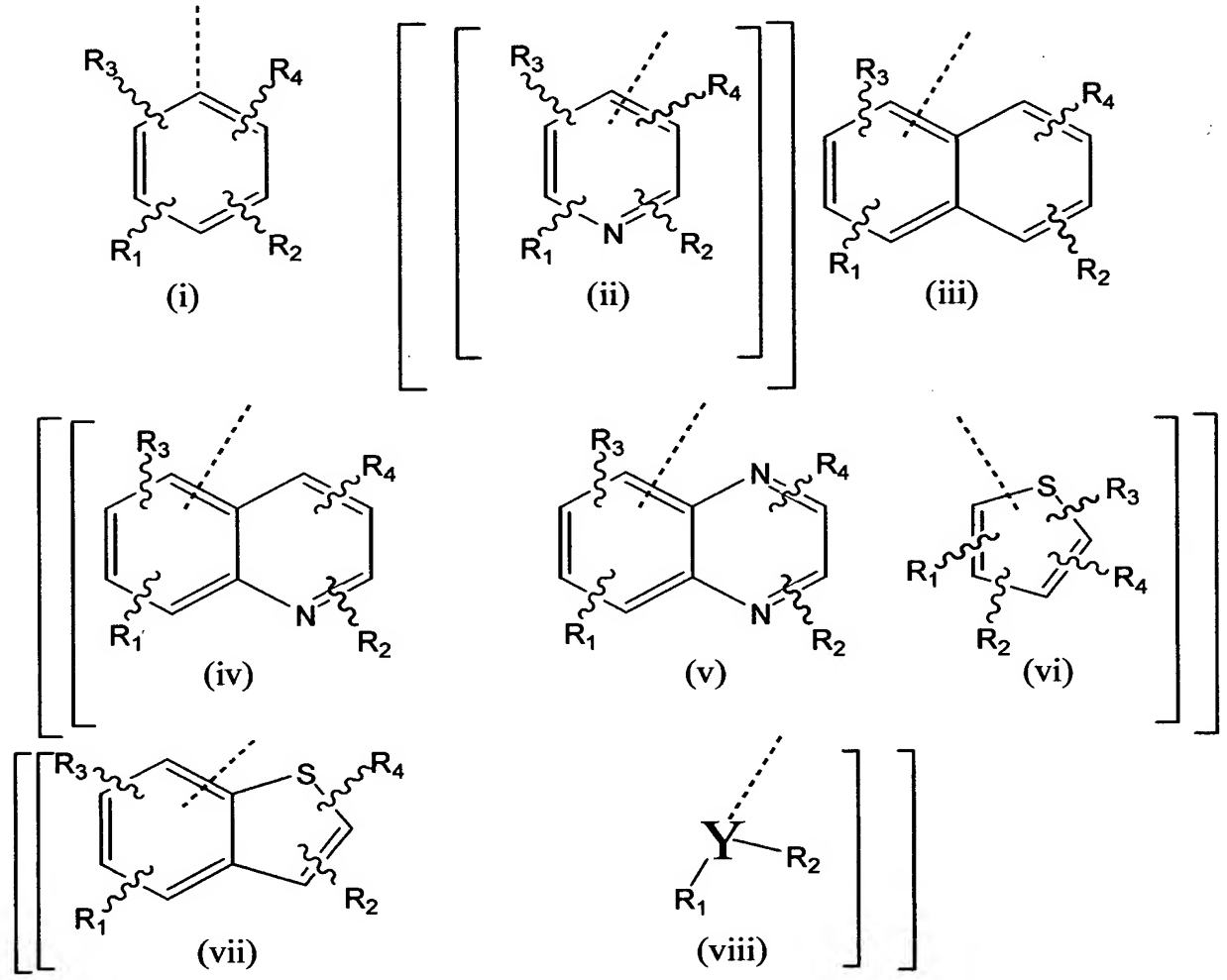


Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein **R** represents the groups selected from Formulas (i) ~~through (viii)~~ and (iii);

the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO_2 group[[,]];



~~Y is a straight chained or branch-chained divalent alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbons, or Y is N;~~

R_1 and R_2 independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -NR_6-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two R_3 groups; or the R_5 group is directly attached without an intervening R_1 or R_2 group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas **(i)** through **(viii)**;

R_3 and R_4 independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H, COOH or a tetrazole moiety;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

at least one the R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

at least one R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH or tetrazole whereby the compound includes at least one but no more than two COOH or tetrazole groups;

~~when **Y** is -N then neither of the R_1 and R_2 groups is H,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

2. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 1**.

3. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 2**.

4. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 3**.

5. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 4**.

6. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where $\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently selected from H and COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

7. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where the formula includes at least one **X** group.

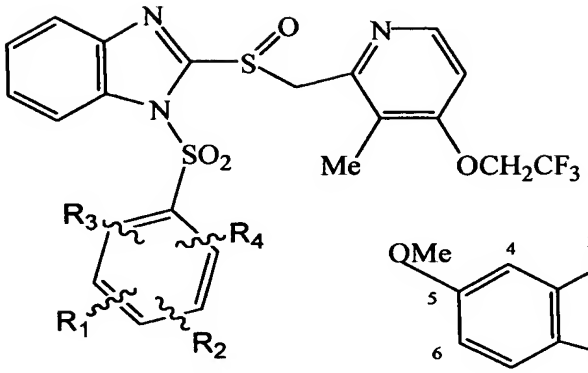
8. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one **X** is O.

9. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one **X** is CONH.

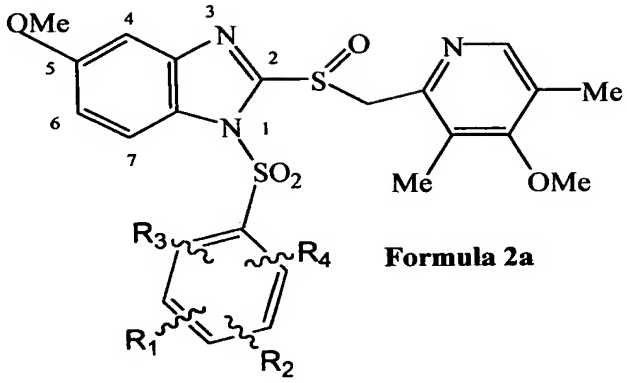
9. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

10. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where **R** represents **formula (i)**.

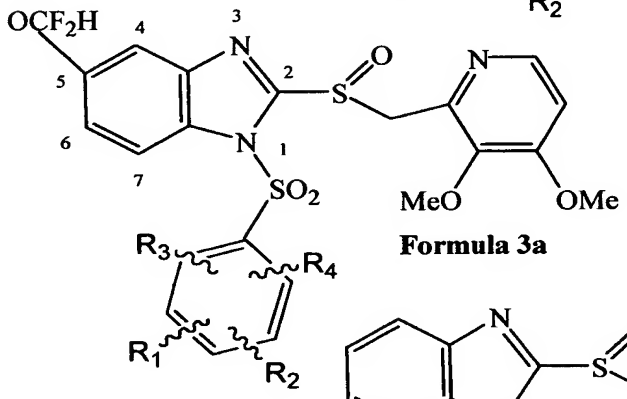
11. (Original) A compound of **Formula 1a, Formula 2a, Formula 3a** or of **Formula 4a**



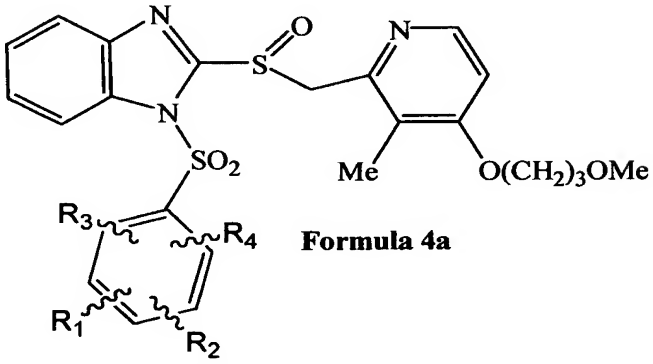
Formula 1a



Formula 2a



Formula 3a



Formula 4a

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2a** and **3a** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring,

$\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_2}$ independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups, or a

straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -N$\mathbf{R_6}$-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two $\mathbf{R_3}$ groups; or the $\mathbf{R_5}$ group is directly attached without an intervening $\mathbf{R_1}$ or $\mathbf{R_2}$ group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas **(i)** through **(viii)**;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ and $\mathbf{R_4}$ independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

$\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently H or COOH;

$\mathbf{R_6}$ is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

at least one the $\mathbf{R_1}$ and $\mathbf{R_2}$ groups is not H, and

at least one $\mathbf{R_5}$ is not H and no more than two $\mathbf{R_5}$ groups are COOH whereby the compound includes at least one but no more than two COOH groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

12. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 1a**.

13. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 2a**.

14. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

15. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 3a**.

16. (Amended) A compound in accordance with Claim [[13]] 15 where the HF_2CO group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

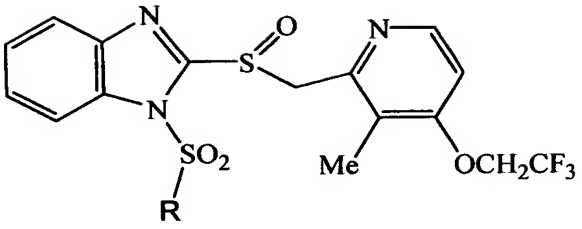
17. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 4a**.

18. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

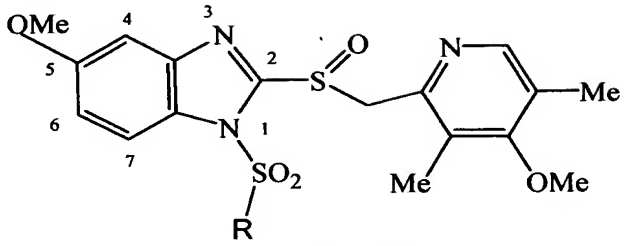
19. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where $\mathbf{R_2}$, $\mathbf{R_3}$ and $\mathbf{R_4}$ are hydrogen and $\mathbf{R_1}$ is OCH_2COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring relatiove to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

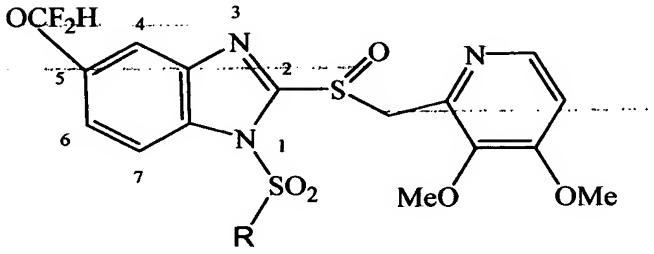
21. (Original) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



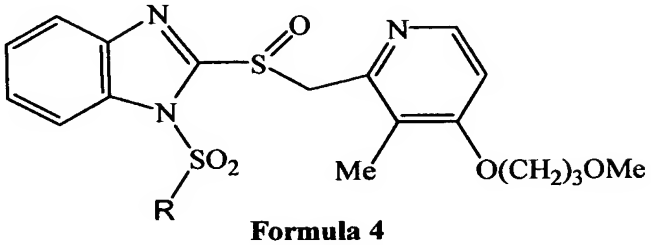
Formula 1



Formula 2



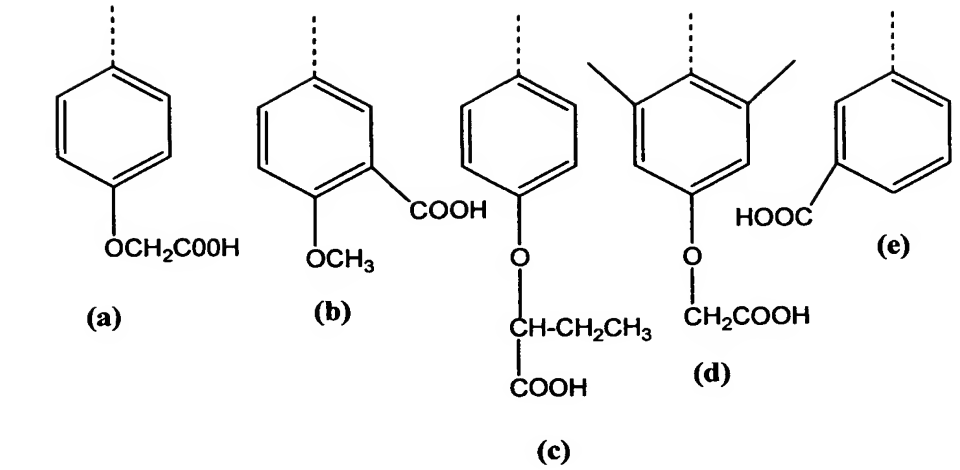
Formula 3



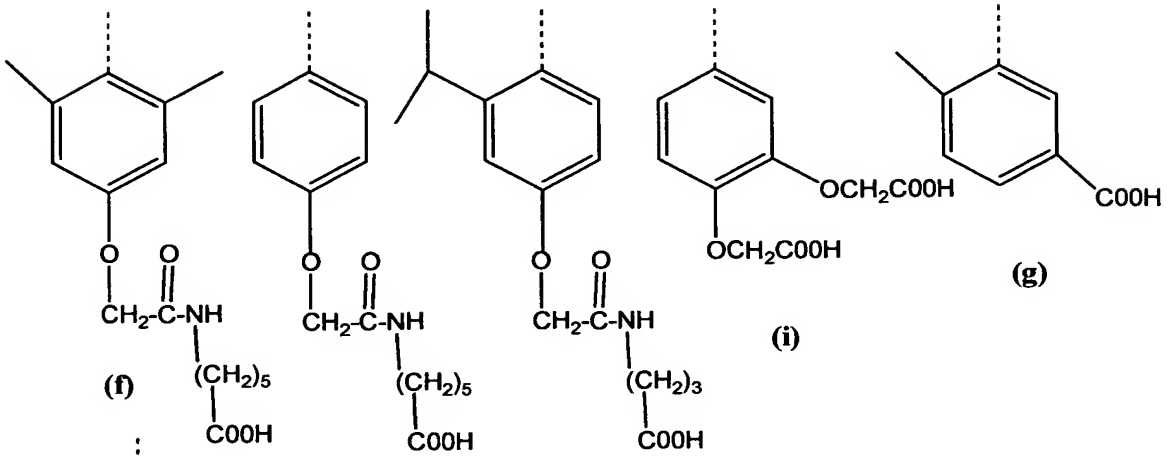
Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

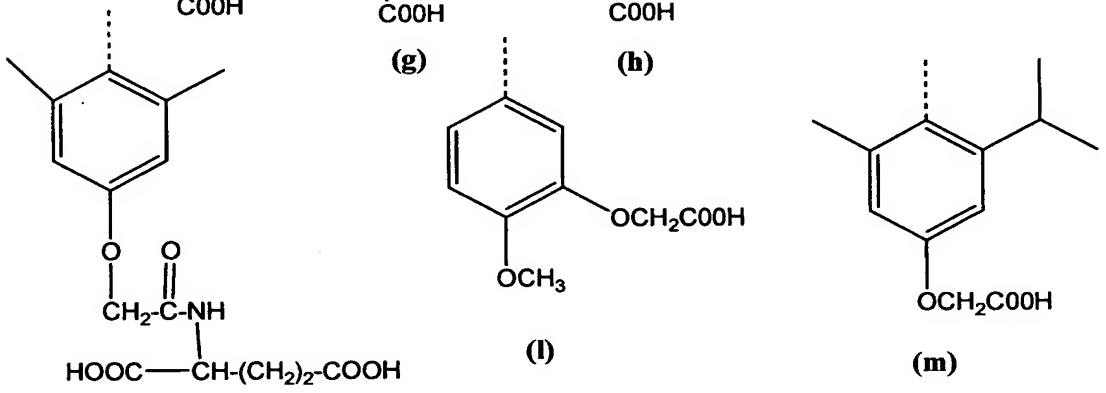
wherein **R** represents the groups selected from **Formulas (a)** through **(s)**, the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO_2 group,



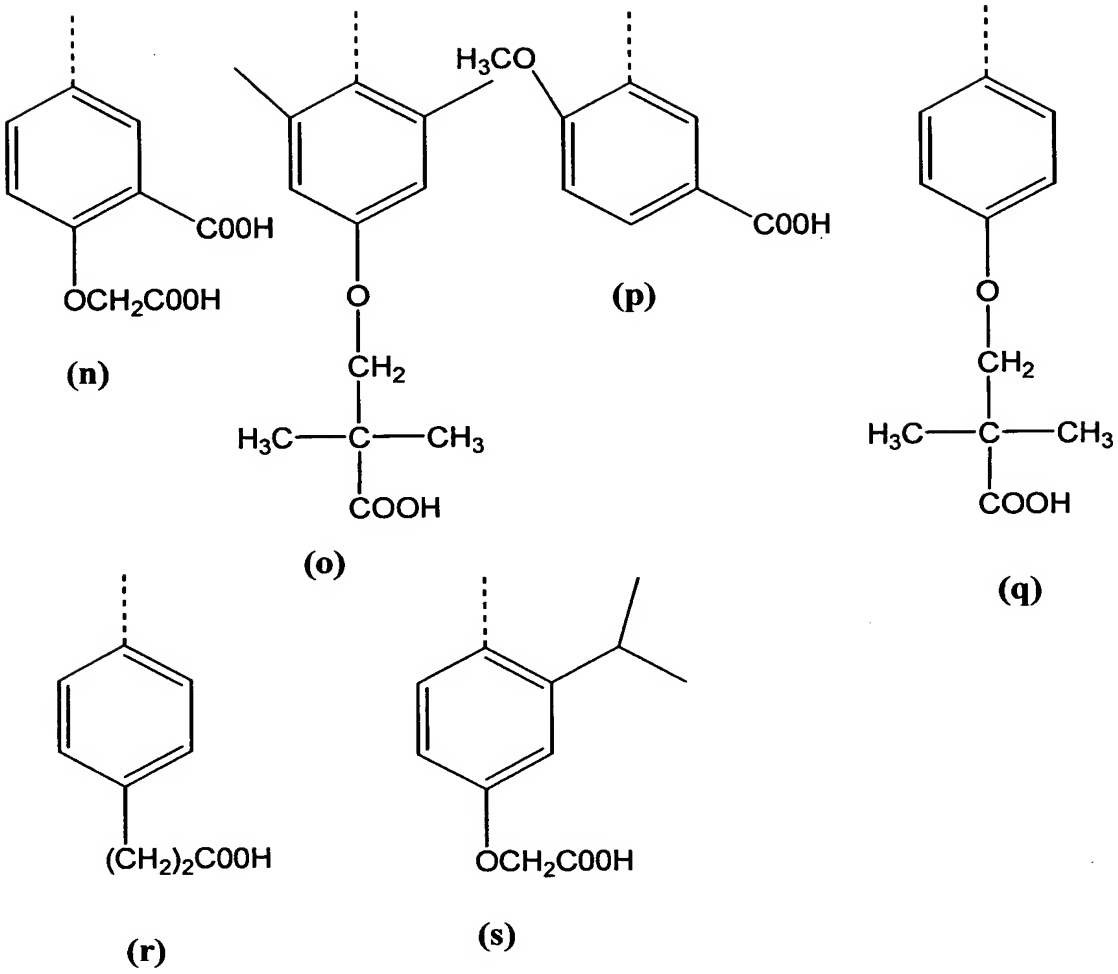
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)



(f) (g) (h) (i) (g)



(k) (l) (m)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 1**.

23. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 2**.

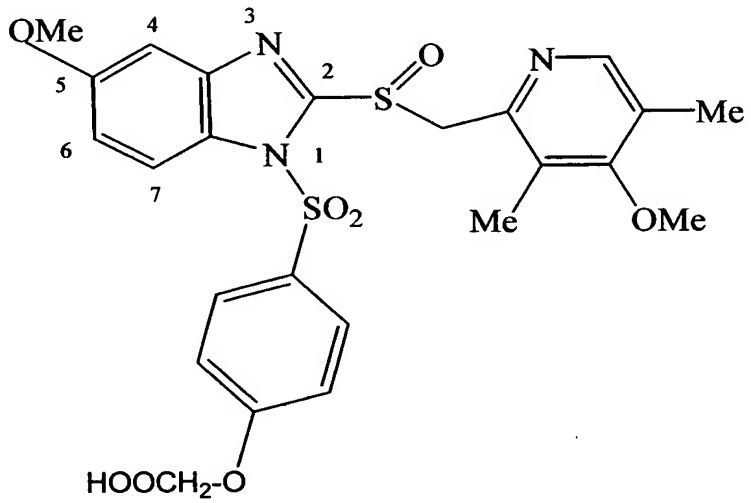
24. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

25. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 3**.

26. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF_2O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

27. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 4**.

28. (Original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 that has the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

29. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.

30. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.

31. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.

32. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with

Claim 28.

33. CANCELED